

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Joe Barton  
Chairman Emeritus, Committee on Energy and Commerce  
Subcommittee on Health  
Hearing on “Examining Drug Compounding”  
May 23, 2013**

Thank you, Chairman Pitts for holding this hearing. I applaud the Committee’s oversight and investigative work on the recent meningitis outbreak. The facts indicate that the Food and Drug Administration did not use its full authority and act quickly against the company compounding and distributing the tainted medication. I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today in the Health Subcommittee to determine what if anything needs to be done legislatively to prevent further harm to innocent Americans.

In particular, I would like to welcome a fellow Texan to the hearing, Mr. Joe Harmison, testifying today on behalf of the National Community Pharmacists Association. I have known Mr. Harmison for twenty years or so and the Committee could not have asked a more respected and experienced pharmacist to come to DC to share the community pharmacy perspective regarding issues relating to drug compounding. I hope he can explain the vital role community pharmacies play in compounding drugs for their patients and the difference between his operation and those of his association versus what was happening at the companies compounding the drugs that caused the recent outbreak.

With that Mr. Chairman, I welcome the witnesses, look forward to the hearing, and yield back.